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## PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAIL STOP PCT

The Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

By way of preliminary amendment, please amend the above identified application as set forth below.

### **In the Drawings:**

Please amend Figs. 2-4 and 8 of the drawings, presently on file, as indicated in red ink on the Annotated Marked-Up Drawings accompanying the attached Submission. The Applicant respectfully requests approval of all of the requested drawing amendments at this time. **Also please enter the enclosed new Replacement Sheets of drawings, accompanying this Submission, which incorporate all of the requested drawing amendments.**

### **Substitute Specification:**

Accompanying this response, please find a clean form substitute specification, without markings thereon, along with a copy of the original specification which shows the additions and deletions to the original specification with each of the paragraphs of the original specification numbered. The substitute specification does not include any new subject matter and only includes the same changes which are indicated on the enclosed marked-up copy of the original specification. Please enter the substitute specification into the record of this case.

### **In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-25, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, in favor of new claims 26-50 as follows.